

REMARKS

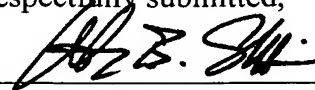
The only issues outstanding in the office action mailed June 29, 2006, are the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102. Reconsideration of these issues, in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. The examiner is thanked for indicating the withdrawal of all prior rejections of record.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Scholten et al., US patent 6,245,281. Scholten relies upon DE 2,906,647, equivalent to Meyer et al., US patent 4,334,056 for disclosure of a method of producing polyamide powder. Claims 1-3 and 5-6 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Muncu et al., US patent 4,687,837. Reconsideration of each of these rejections is respectfully requested. Each reference discloses a process for producing polyamide powders comprising mixing polymer (polylauryllactam, nylon-12) with *ethanol*. See Meyer at column 2, lines 59-60, indicating that polyamides are combined with *at least twice the amount by weight of ethanol*, see column 2, lines 59-60) Meyer teaches that the ethanol is water free, or may contain up to 4% by weight of water. See column 4, lines 8-9. Muncu teaches contacting polyamide with "solely ethanol", such as water-free ethanol, or ethanol which may contain *up to 10%* by weight of water. See the paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4.

As a result, neither reference discloses the use of a substance consisting of water, water containing a minor amount of methanol, or steam. Indeed, in view of the teaching in Meyer, one of ordinary skill in the art would be of the opinion that it is necessary to use a large amount of ethanol to achieve whatever result is desired by patentees. Such clearly not only does not disclose the use of pure water or water containing a minor amount of methanol, but teaches a way from such a process. One of ordinary skill in the art would have no understanding, from the references, that increasing melting point or enthalpy of a polyamide could be conducted with water, water/methanol or steam. Accordingly, it is submitted that the references do not anticipate the presently claimed method, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully requested. However, should the examiner have any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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